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APR 18 1952

Honorable Frederick J. Lawton
 Director
 Bureau of the Budget
 Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Lawton:

I was pleased to have your letter of 7 April enclosing a copy of the President's directive on the Federal History program. As you have accurately surmised, the sensitive nature of Central Intelligence activities would necessarily limit formal participation in the overall program. However, we have anticipated the benefit that might accrue from a systematic audit of this Agency's activities and we consequently have established within my own office a staff of historians to undertake that specific project. As the President indicated in his letter to you, such studies must necessarily concentrate upon objective analysis of problems; indeed these instructions are especially applicable in a program such as ours where so very few precedents exist. CIA studies have been oriented in this direction in the hope that they enable us to look back over our shoulders and see where we have been while also delineating a pattern that may be of some help and guidance in the future.

I should like very much to have the statement prepared by your office on the objectives and procedures of the Federal Historical Program. At the same time I have entrusted my staff to meet with yours, that we might benefit from your considerable experience and fit our own historical project informally into the government-wide pattern.

Sincerely,

SIGNED:

Walter B. Smith
 Director

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